

Message Text

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ACTION OMB-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 AGR-05 AID-05 DODE-00 HEW-02 /062 W

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R 121610Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4852

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5979

DEPT PASS ED JOHNSON, OMB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NL

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: POPPY STRAW PROCESSNG CAPACITIES

REF: (A) HAGUE 5803

(B) STATE 262207

(C) HAGUE 4502

1. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DATA RE VERENIGDE PHARAMCEUTISCHE
FABRIKEN'S POPPY STRAW PROCESSING CAPACITY/OPERATIONS SUPPLIED
BY FIRM'S MARKETING MANAGER:

(A) PROCESSING CAPACITY (FIRST STAGE EXTRACTION) UNDER
PRESENT OPERATING CONDITIONS AND WITH PRESENT PLANT IS 7 TO 8
THOUSAND METRIC TONS OF STRAW. PLANT NOW OPERATES THREE SHIFTS
AND IS CLOSED ON WEEKENDS. CAPACITY COULD THEREFORE BE INCREASED
BY ADDING ADDITIONAL SHIFT AND/OR OPERATING PLANT ON WEEKENDS.
SOURCE STRESSED THAT ANY DECISION TO INTENSIFY PRESENT OPERATION
WOULD BE SOLELY DEPENDENT ON MARKET FACTORS (PRICE/DEMAND
FOR PRODUCT).

(B) PRIOR TO CESSATION OF POPPY CULTIVATION BY TURKEY, VPF TOOK
APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF OF ALL TURKISH STRAW EXPORTS, OR IN NEIGHBOR-
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HOOD OF EIGHT THOUSAND METRIC TONS/YEAR IN AVERAGE CROP YEAR.

(C) IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER VPF EXPECTS TO PURCHASE RAW MATERIAL (STRAW) IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS NEEDED TO KEEP PLANT IN NORMAL OPERATION, SOURCE REPLIED THAT FIRM MIGHT DO SPECULATIVE BUYING IF MARKET CONDITIONS WARRANT, I.E., IF PRICE IS RIGHT AND IF AVAILABILITY OF FUTURE SUPPLIES JUSTIFY STOCK BUILDING.

2. COMMENT: OUR SOURCE WAS NATURALLY CURIOUS AS TO REASONS WHICH PROMPTED THIS FURTHER INQUIRY. WHEN TOLD BY EMBOFF THAT INFORMATION WAS NEEDED IN CONNECTION WITH ESTIMATES OF DEMAND FOR 1975 TURKISH CROP, SOURCE RETORTED THAT IN HIS OPINION REAL REASON IS THAT USG IS CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE SUPPLY OF MEDICINAL OPIATES, AND SINCE US ITSELF DOES NOT HAVE CAPABILITY TO PROCESS POPPY STRAW, IT IS SHOPPING AROUND FOR FOREIGN ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF PROCESSING STRAW AND SHIPPING INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS TO US FOR FURTHER PROCESSING. IN DEFERENCE TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST IN PARA 7 OF REF (B), EMBOFF AVOIDED DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT. WE HOPED THAT IN FUTURE CONTACTS WITH VPF, WE MAY BE ABLE TO BE MORE FORTHRIGHT WITH THEM ON THIS SUBJECT. OUR SOURCE, WHO IS WELL ATTUNED TO WHAT'S GOING ON, OBVIOUSLY SAW THROUGH OUR SMOKE SCREEN. GOULD

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Message Attributes

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